

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /081 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8481

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

FAA WASHDC

FAA BRUSSELS

UNCLAS PARIS 06633

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR, UK, US

SUBJ: CIVAIR: FRENCH PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR CONCORDE

1. GROUP OF ABOUT ONE HUNDRED MEMBERS DRAWN FROM MAJORITY AND OPPOSITION PARTIES HAS BEEN FORMED WITHIN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN DEFENSE OF CONCORDE. GROUP ELECTED LUCIEN NEUWIRTH (UDR) AS ITS PRESIDENT AND EDGAR FAURE, PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, AGREED TO BE HONORARY PRESIDENT OF GROUP. VICE-PRESIDENTS INCLUDE A COMMUNIST, AN INDEPENDENT REPUBLIC, AND A UDR MEMBER. REFORM PARTY AND SOCIALISTS ARE EACH ALSO TO DESIGNATE A VICE-PRESIDENT.

2. NEUWIRTH TOLD PRESS THAT FRENCH PARLIAMENTARY GROUP WOULD ENTER INTO CONTACT WITH SIMILAR BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FORMED LAST MONTH AND WOULD BE LAUNCHING LETTER-WRITING CAMPAIGN TO US. (ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, FORMATION OF FRENCH GROUP FOLLOWS RECEIPT OF LETTER FROM HEAD OF BRITISH GROUP URGING JOINT FRANCO-BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY ACTION IN SUPPORT OF CONCORDE.) NEUWIRTH SAID THAT GROUP WOULD BE ACTIVE DURING THE FORTHCOMING PARLIAMENTARY SESSION, UNCLASSIFIED

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AND HE IS THEN QUOTED AS SAYING: "WE WANT THE

PARLIAMENT TO TAKE A UNANIMOUS POSITION ON THIS SUBJECT, FOR WE DO NOT TAKE KINDLY TO THE DISCRIMINATORY ACTION OF CERTAIN AMERICAN AUTHORITIES."

3. COMMENT: DEPT. WILL RECALL (PARIS 3085) THAT IT WAS NEUWIRTH WHO HAD CLAIMED TO SEE US "PLOT" AGAINST CONCORDE, THOUGH WE NOTE HE DID THEREAFTER WELCOME COLEMAN DECISION. NEUWIRTH AND UDR, ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS (E.G., FRANCE-SOIR OF FEB. 28), APPEAR TO HAVE TAKEN LEAD IN ORGANIZING FRENCH PARLIAMENTARY GROUP. (NOT ONLY NEUWIRTH BUT EX-PRIME MINISTER MESSMER, ALSO UDR, HAS SPOKEN OUT FORCEFULLY AGAINST NEW YORK LEGISLATURE'S ACTION AFFECTING CONCORDE.) NEUWIRTH'S REFERENCE TO ACTION TO BE TAKEN DURING PARLIAMENTARY SESSION OBVIOUSLY SUGGESTS SOME KIND OF RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EFFORTS TO GAIN NEW YORK LANDING RIGHTS WILL BE INTRODUCED. FEW OTHER ISSUES BESIDES CONCORDE IN FRANCE TODAY COULD PROBABLY HAVE BROUGHT TOGETHER SO BROAD A COLLECTION OF PARLIAMENTARY INTERESTS CUTTING ACROSS ALL PARTY LINES.
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